nourished in terms of adequate minimum intake of proteins, vitamins and other vital nutritional contents as reported;

(b) what corrective measures Government propose to take to ensure adequate minimum level of nutrition to rural masses; and

(c) what is the present situation of malnutrition especially in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) According to the UN (FAO) sponsored study which was conducted in 6 villages in different climatic areas, the energy and protein requirement are met or are marginally low (with the exception of village in coastal areas).

However, according to the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB), Indian Council of Medical Research, surveys conducted in 8 States—Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa revealed that the diets in the Indian rural households were marginally inadequate (3 to 7%) with respect to energy, Vitamin C and niacin, while they were adequate (more than 100% of recommended dietary allowance) in respect of protein, calcium, iron and thiamine.

(b) To improve the nutritional status of the population, Governments implementing various national health and nutrition programmes such as :—

(i) Supplementary feeding programmes through Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Special Programme, Mid-day Meal and Balwadi Nutrition Programme.

(ii) Programme for prevention of specific nutrient deficiencies such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme Prophylaxis Programme against Nutrition and Anaemia and Vitamin 'A' defficiency.

(iii) The government has been organising several poverty alleviation programmes like employment guarantee schemes, Nehru Rojgar Yojna, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Draught Prone Areas Programme etc.

(iv) Subsidiesed food grains and edible oil are distributed through Public Distribution System.

(c) Dietary intake in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh followed the same trend as of all India pattern mentioned in (a) above.

Neem Intake to reduce liver disorder

2413. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the intake of neem leaves can reduce the risk of liver disorder, as per the news item appeared in the "Times of India" dated 4th September, 1992 entitled "Neem Intake Reduce Liver Disorder"; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to encourage further research in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) The results of studies undertaken on laboratory animals at the Indian Statistical Institute and Institute of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta indicate that intake of 'Neem' leaves can reduce the risk of liver disorder. The therapeutic Properties neem leaves will be discussed at the International Conference on 'Neem' scheduled to be held in Bangalore from 24—28th February, 1993.

परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम के लक्ष्यों की प्राप्ति

2414. श्री राम सिंह राठवा : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम के लिए निर्धारित लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त कर पाई है;